

94. (Twice amended) The reagent of claim 27, wherein said coagulation activator is present at a concentration level [within a range sufficient] to trigger a fibrin polymerization, wherein [said fibrin polymerization is preceded by an initiation phase, and wherein] the coagulation activator detects defects in the initiation phase.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Case/Pending claims

Claims 1-51 and 83-94 are currently pending in the present application.

Claims 1-51 and 83-94 remain under examination.

In accordance with recommendations of the Examiner during a telephonic interview, Applicant has amended various of the claims to further enhance the clarity of the claim language used.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended such that is "to trigger". The phrase "but insufficient to" has been amended to read "but not to". In addition, the term "may be utilized" has been replaced with the term, "is utilized". In addition, the claims now recite, "is utilized to assess a hypocoagulable, normal and hypercoagulable condition in a single assay". Applicant submits that the claim is now in even more condition for allowance.

Claim 1, the claim from which claim 23 ultimately depends, has been amended to further define the intended reagent as comprising a composition that is utilized to assess a hypercoagulable, normal and a hypocoagulable condition in a single assay. Claim 23 as dependent thereon, includes this limitation as well.

Claim 9 and Claim 10

Claim 9 has been amended to even further enhance the clarity of the claim language, and as suggested by the examiner. The claim recites "percent", rather than "mole percent", in regard to the amount of specific phospholipid in the phospholipid

mixture. Support for this amendment is provided in the Specification, pg. 25, line 10-16. No new matter has been added.

Claim 9 from which claim 10 depends has been amended to include the term "phospholipid mixture" so as to provide proper antecedent basis for that item in claim 10.

Claim 12

Claim 12 has been amended to include proper Markush language ("or" to "and").

Claim 27

Claim 27 has been amended to replace the term "may be utilized", so that it now recites, "is utilized". In addition, claim 27 further define a reagent comprising a composition that is utilized to assess a hypocoagulable, normal, *and* a hypercoagulable condition.

Claim 37

Claim 37 has been amended to recite a proper Markush grouping, in that the term "or" should be replaced with the term "and". Applicant has made this particular amendment to the claim, as pointed out by the Examiner.

Claim 88 and Claim 94

Claim 88 has been amended to recite "the coagulation activator detects defects in an initiation phase". Support for this amendment is in the Specification, pg. 5, lines 1-6.

Claim 94 has been similarly amendment to enhance clarity, and recites "wherein the coagulation activator detects defects in the initiation phase".

No new matter has been added.

Applicant has identified the reagent as comprising a composition that "is utilized to assess a hypocoagulable, normal *and* hypercoagulable condition in a single assay". The art cited does not disclose a reagent useful for assessing a sample as hypercoagulable, normal and hypocoagulable.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are clearly patentable.

II. CONCLUSION

The present paper constitutes a complete response to the examiners Final Office Action. Applicant submits the amendment submitted here in accord with recommendations made by the Examiner, places the claims in even further condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions that might expedite the prosecution of the present application to allowance, Applicants undersigned representative, Denise Mayfield, earnestly requests a telephone call. Applicant's representative may be reached directly at (919) 620-2993.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise L. Mayfield
Reg. No. 33,732